

Executive Newsletter

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

July 21, 2006

Message From County Executive Walker

Welcome to the Executive Newsletter. This weekly newsletter will keep you up-to-date on events and issues affecting Milwaukee County. Thank you for your continued support.

Scott

County lifeguards help save two swimmers

The hot weekend and extended pool hours Friday, Saturday and Sunday brought out 40,000 visitors to the county pools. Many thanks to the well-trained county pool lifeguards who maintained pool safety. The head lifeguard at Sheridan Park pool in Cudahy, Tim Goesch, along with lifeguards Rannon Bronecki, Nina Gutmanis, Jason Savage, Jessica Babic, Nicholas Gatton, and Rebecca Washa, assisted in saving two swimmers from near drownings on Sunday and Tuesday. Complete stories from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel at following links:

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=469889>

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=472415>



Statement in response to County Board Finance and Audit Committee's passage of a \$60 million sales tax proposal:

"The majority of the County Board still doesn't get it. This is a \$60 million Pension Tax and not a Parks Tax. Without a change in the fringe benefit levels for the county, all of this money will go to cover the pension payment."

"Taxpayers know that the problem is not that we are taxed too little by the county; the real problem is that the money is wasted on some of the highest fringe benefits in the country. If we can fix that problem, we will fix our budget challenges."

Park District proposal



Walker, Sen. Alberta Darling and Friends of the Parks groups hold news conference in favor of creating Park District

I appeared before the County Board Parks, Energy and Environment Committee to detail the benefits of the Park District proposal, which would require approval by the State Legislature and the Governor. A new Park District would have the authority to levy a property tax up to the amount of the tax designated for the park system in the 2006 county budget. If a referendum goes forward in April 2007, elections for the seven commissioners would be held. These commissioners would be elected from across the Park

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District, and be volunteer, non-paid positions for four-year terms. The legislation would require Milwaukee County to transfer all of the property under the authority of the parks system to the Park District effective January 1, 2008.

Overall, an independent Park District allows us to protect the parks system while also protecting taxpayers. It is also a great way to get the parks system out from under the weight of the costs of the pension deal and unfunded mandates.

Even before the pension scandal, our parks faced declining support. In 1980, the parks received about 45% of the total tax levy. By 2000, that had dropped to under 10%. Today, it is 7.95% of the total tax levy. Places like Minneapolis and Chicago have successful Park Districts. Milwaukee County can too.

US Bank Championship at Brown Deer Park

The US Bank Championship at Brown Deer Park runs July 24th through July 30th. A charity shootout featuring local celebrities takes place on Tuesday, July 25th at 3pm with free admission. The course has been ranked as one of the five best municipal courses in the nation by Golf Digest magazine. Information on tickets and business packages is available by calling (414) 540-3800 or visiting the website at www.usbankchampionship.com

Calendar of Events

SUNSET ZOOFARI – 1950s & 60s BAND –

THE JIMMY PRINCE SHOW

PLACE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO

TIME WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 6PM-9PM

www.milwaukeezoo.org

COUNTY BOARD MEETING

PLACE COUNTY BOARD ROOM – 2ND FLR COURTHOUSE

TIME THURSDAY, JULY 27, 9:30AM

www.milwaukee.gov

FESTA ITALIANA

PLACE HENRY MEIER FESTIVAL PARK

TIME THURSDAY, JULY 20 – SUNDAY, JULY 23

www.FESTAITALIANA.COM

SUMMER'S BEST

FREE CONCERTS IN YOUR PARKS

PLACE VARIOUS PARKS, SEE WEBSITE BELOW

TIME VARIES BY PARK

www.COUNTYPARKS.COM